



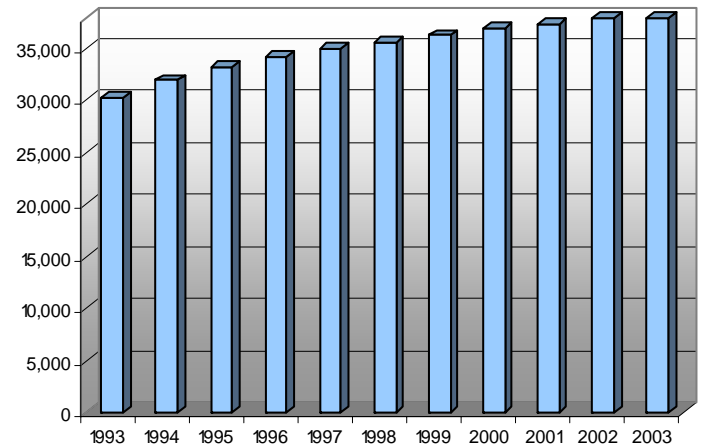
BONNER COUNTY PROFILE

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Population

Bonner County experienced impressive population growth in the 1990s, as its beauty, recreational opportunities, and quality of life attracted thousands of new residents. In the 1990s, 845 more people moved into the county per year than moved out. From 1993 to 2003, the county's population grew 29 percent from 30,341 to 39,162, while Idaho's population grew 23 percent and the U.S. population grew 13 percent. Population growth has slowed in the last few years, but still continues at a fairly strong pace. The largest city, Sandpoint (2003 pop. 7,378), and its suburbs, Ponderay (698) and Kootenai (462), sit in the county's center, while Priest River (1,863) dominates the west and Clark Fork (566), the east.



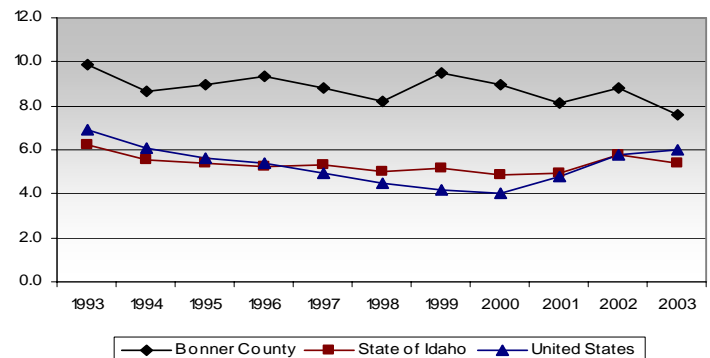
Labor Force & Employment

Development of Schweitzer Mountain Resort and Sandpoint's reputation as a haven for the arts contributed to the growth of tourism. Schweitzer's expansion since 1990 boosted winter employment at local motels, restaurants, and stores. Schweitzer plans to expand further over the next decade. As important as the winter tourism season is, the summer hosts many more tourists. *Leisure & Hospitality* jobs increased from 1,482 in 1993 to 1,728 in 2003.

The biggest source of new jobs in the 1990s was Coldwater Creek, the Sandpoint catalog company. It grew from a small mom-and-pop operation to the county's largest employer, with employment exceeding 700 in 1997. In 1999, Coldwater Creek began a series of job cuts. Today, it employs nearly 400 people in Bonner County.

Manufacturing employment rose 59 percent in Bonner County between 1993 and 2003, while it fell 16 percent in the United States. The Bonner County growth occurred as Litehouse (salad dressings), Quest Aircraft (airplanes),

Unemployment Rates



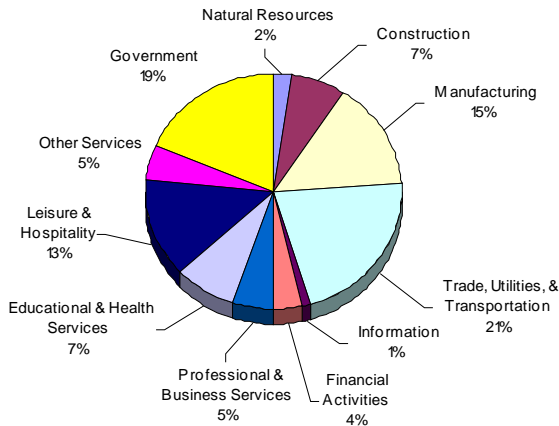
Unicep Packaging (plastic applicators), Diedrich Manufacturing (coffee-roasting machines), Encoder Products (electronics), Cygnus (high-tech metal parts), Thorne Research (nutritional supplements), and other manufacturers added jobs to the county's traditional manufacturing mainstay, wood products. Today, wood products manufacturing, employs 900 people, while other manufacturing operations employ 1,320.

Rapid population growth and expansion of the industrial base kept construction booming and fostered growth of retailers, services, and public schools throughout the last decade. During the last two years, Sandpoint has received considerable national attention as a great place to live, and construction and real estate are shattering their previous records.

Labor Force	Dec 2003	Dec 2004
Civilian Labor Force	17,771	18,957
Total Employment	16,502	17,614
Unemployed	1,268	1,343
Bonner County % Unemployed	7.1	7.1
State of Idaho % Unemployed	5.0	5.1
U.S. % Unemployed	5.7	5.4

Labor Force	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Civilian Labor Force	14,436	15,497	15,806	16,451	16,998	17,392	17,411	17,396	17,547	17,804	17,872
Unemployment	1,426	1,337	1,417	1,538	1,498	1,421	1,658	1,560	1,425	1,570	1,355
% of Labor Force Unemployed	9.9	8.6	9.0	9.3	8.8	8.2	9.5	9.0	8.1	8.8	7.6
Employment	13,010	14,161	14,389	14,913	15,500	15,971	15,753	15,836	16,123	16,234	16,517

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs for 2003



Bonner County Trends

The Bonner County Economic Development Corporation and the Priest River Development Corporation are working to bring more jobs to the county. They can show potential employers the county's high quality of life and great labor availability. The county's resident labor force exceeds 18,000 people, and surrounding areas add 15,000 people to the potential labor pool. Bonner County and its neighbors are labor surplus areas with relatively high unemployment rates, so wages remain low.

Major Employers

Coldwater Creek (catalog co.)
J D Lumber Co.
Life Care Center (nursing home)
Litehouse (manufacturer)
Riley Creek Lumber Co.
Schweitzer Mountain Resort
Stimson Lumber
Wal-Mart

Occupational Wages*

Starting Wage

Assemblers	\$7.70
Bookkeepers	\$8.40
Carpenters, Journey-level	\$14.00
Cashiers	\$6.40
Clerks, General Office	\$7.20
Clerks, Retail	\$6.70
Cooks, Restaurant	\$7.50
Janitors	\$7.20
Laborers, General	\$8.25
Millwrights	\$14.20
Nurses, Registered	\$16.00
Sawmill Workers	\$10.00
Secretaries, General	\$8.10
Truck Drivers, Heavy	\$10.00

* Additional Occupational Wage data can be found on the Idaho Commerce & Labor website at cl.idaho.gov/lmi.

Covered Employment & Average Annual Wages Per Job for 1993, 2001, & 2002	1993		2002		2003	
	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages
Total Covered Wages	9,087	\$17,790	12,207	\$24,202	12,491	\$24,975
Agriculture	362	\$19,678	294	\$26,492	277	\$25,387
Mining	37	\$27,275	82	\$34,940	83	\$36,881
Construction	560	\$19,506	811	\$23,780	883	\$23,854
Manufacturing	1,187	\$25,144	1,684	\$30,906	1,885	\$31,950
Trade, Utilities, & Transportation	1,856	\$18,573	2,754	\$25,310	2,686	\$26,570
Information	160	\$21,699	158	\$27,194	156	\$27,962
Financial Activities	352	\$19,516	493	\$32,601	436	\$30,445
Professional and Business Services	379	\$18,466	641	\$25,908	657	\$28,382
Educational and Health Services	478	\$14,716	893	\$23,044	981	\$23,185
Leisure and Hospitality	1,482	\$8,872	1,691	\$10,285	1,728	\$10,652
Other Services	341	\$11,824	402	\$16,910	404	\$17,699
Government	1,894	\$19,403	2,305	\$26,911	2,315	\$27,917

Per Capita Income	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Bonner County	\$15,668	\$16,044	\$16,150	\$16,900	\$17,442	\$18,553	\$19,429	\$20,363	\$21,270	\$21,865
State of Idaho	\$18,103	\$18,707	\$19,426	\$20,248	\$20,648	\$21,789	\$22,786	\$24,076	\$24,947	\$25,476
United States	\$21,346	\$22,172	\$23,076	\$24,175	\$25,334	\$26,883	\$27,939	\$29,847	\$30,527	\$30,906

Information provided by U.S. Census Bureau



This county is served by the office listed below:
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